

the gull

Volume 57

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April 1975

Number 4

Bay Area Birds

FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL & MAY



April 5, Saturday

Briones Reservoir, Contra Costa Co. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the EBMUD Briones Staging Area on Bear Creek Rd. See last month's *Gull* for more details. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893).

April 6, Sunday

Fort Cronkhite. Meet at the west end of the tunnel at 8:30 a.m. See last

month's Gull for more details. Leader: Brian McCaffery (824-7320).

April 12, Saturday

A wildflower trip in Tilden Park. Meet at the Little Farm at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Dick Leinbach (526-7649).

April 13, Sunday

Vedanta Society estate, Marin Co. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters, near Olema. We will then go in caravan to the area. Be prepared to walk 4 or 5 miles, and bring lunch. Leader: Jim Clayton (524-2917).

April 16, Wednesday

Stevens Creek Park, Santa Clara Co. Take Interstate 280 south from San Francisco, exit at Stevens Creek Blvd. Drive west for about a mile and follow signs to the park. Meet in the parking lot at the dam at 9:30 a.m., bring lunch. Leader: Bud Fry (731-2874).

April 19, Saturday

Cleary Reserve, Napa Co. Drive north out of Napa on the Silverado Trail, turn right on Cal. 128 to Lake Hennessey. Meet in the picnic ground below the dam at 8:00 a.m. We will bird briefly at the reservoir then travel in earavan to Pope Valley, where we will pool cars and drive into Cleary Reserve over 3 miles of dirt road. This is a unique study area, generally accessible only to college students, with a variety of habitats. We should see Pileated Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, and warblers. There is a charge of \$2.50 per person. Bring lunch and walking shoes; there will be optional owling in the evening. Leaders: Tom Hammer (731-0352) and Norm Gershenz. If you plan to go, please notify Tom Hammer or Pat Triggs (664-8502). There are overnight dormitory accommodations—call Tom Hammer for details.

April 20, Sunday

Briones Regional Park, Contra Costa Co. Take Camino Pablo (from Orinda), San Pablo Dam Rd. (from Richmond), or Wildcat Canyon Rd. (from Tilden Park) to Bear Creek Rd. Drive about 4.4 miles northeast on Bear Creek Rd. to the park entrance, which will be on your right. Turn in, and meet at the second parking lot (also on your right) at 8:15 a.m. Since the bird population here varies greatly from year to year, our itinerary will depend on last-minute scouting but is likely to include a 4-5 mile hike in hilly country, so bring a knapsack lunch. We will see birds of grassland, savannah, oak and riparian woodlands. Leader: Nick Story (527-0210).

April 23, Wednesday

Mini-walk around Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park. Meet at the Little Farm at 9:30 a.m. Lunch optional. Leaders: Harriet Fraser (661-4787) and Eleanor Peterson.

April 26, Saturday

Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Contra Costa Co. From the Bay Bridge take Interstate 80 north to the San Pablo Avenue exit. Turn left onto San Pablo Ave.; at the 4th traffic light turn right onto McBryde Ave. and follow signs to Wildcat Canyon. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. for an easy walk in streamside woods, coastal scrub, and grassy hillsides. A good trip for beginners. Leader: Bud Henning (235-4309).

April 27, Sunday

Our annual trek to Livermore and the McCoy Ranch to see Lewis' Woodpeckers, kingbirds, and Phainopeplas. Meet in Livermore at the flagpole near the post office on North Livermore Ave. at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

May 2, 3 & 4, Friday, Saturday & Sunday

A camping trip to Pinnacles National Monument. Campsite No. 6

in Chalone annex group campground has been reserved for us for Friday and Saturday nights. For those who prefer not to camp, the nearest motels are 45 miles away in Hollister—the Ponderosa and Cinderella motels. Birding trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings will start from the campsite between 6:30 and 7:00. Be prepared to walk. We could see Costa'e Hummingbirds, Sage Sparrows, and Lawrence's Goldfinches. There will be a small entrance fee. Mention Audubon at the entrance. Choose your own leader.

No-leader trips: April 10, Tilden Park; meet at the Little Farm at 9:00 a.m. April 30, Golden Gate Park; meet at the north end of the Chain of Lakes, 43rd and Fulton, at 9:00 a.m. Lunch optional. Choose your own leaders.

Dates to hold: May 10, birding by ear at Pt. Reyes; May 11, Mt. Diablo; May 17, Annadel State Park for chats; May 24, Presidio of San Francisco for orioles; May 31, Bollinger Canyon; June 14 & 15, Yuba Pass; June 22, bird-hike around Lake Lagunitas.

-PAT TRIGGS, Field Trips Chairman

FEBRUARY OBSERVATIONS

A single Short-tailed Shearwater was identified in Monterey Bay Feb. 1 and three or more were found Feb. 22 (JL, JM, BR, DDe, et al): they are irregular stragglers to California although a few are present most winters. One or two Manx Searwaters in Montcrey Bay Feb. 22 (DDe et al) were not only rare in our area but out-of-season: they generally are found only in the fall. 20 Pink-footed Shearwaters in Monterey Bay Feb. 22 (JM, BR, TC, et al) were very early. Also early were 16 Fulvous Tree Ducks at Woodland Mar. 2 (RS). The European Wigeon found last month at St. Ignatius College Prep. was still there Feb. 25 (BMcC) and another was present in the wigeon flock at the S.F. Zoo Feb. 8-29 (MW et al); also in the flock was a European X American Wigeon hybird. 15 Barrow's Goldeneve were in the Port of Oakland Feb. 19 (BMcC) and 50 wintered on the American River in Sacramento (RS). The "Harlan's" Hawk found last month at Grizzly Island was seen through Feb. 20 (JM et al.) and another was found in the same area Feb. 17-24 (GZ, JM, SL); singles were observed near Fulton, Sonoma Co. all month (GB, LCB), at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Feb. 27 (RS), and along North Butte Rd., Sutter Co. Feb. 8 (SLa). These sightings, along with another in January near San Luis Refuge (PL), indicate the presence of at least six individuals of this rare race in our area this winter, a significant invasion. The Monterey Broad-winged Hawk was seen at least through Feb. 23 (mob). A Black Rail was heard in Kehoe Marsh, Pt Reyes Feb. 27 (RS). 200 Mountain Plovers wintered in Panoche Valley, San Benito Co. (EJM et al), a northern outpost, and 28 more were observed along Sandy Mush Rd., Merced Co., Feb. 9 (GZ). A Rock Sandpiper at Agate Beach, Bolinas, Feb. 27

(RS) was south of its known wintering localities. The Ruff that was first discovered at Martinez last September was seen off and on in the Suisun marshes, Solano Co. Jan. 31-Feb. 19 (FB, RDeC, RS). A Glancous Gull present around Goethe Park, Saeramento, in early February (RS) may constitute the first Central Valley record. The Little Gull continued to be seen at Zmudowski State Beach, Monterey Co. through Mar. 1 (mob), and the Thick-billed Murre at Monterey was observed through Feb. 22 (mob). Cliff Swallows in the Los Banos area Feb. 16 were about a week early (JM, WK, et al). A Rock Wren at Crystal Springs Res. Feb. 23 (TT, IM) may be only the third modern San Mateo Co. record. A Northern Shrike found early in the month at Goethe Park, Sacramento was seen through Feb. 16 (RS, GZ). The Black-throated Blue Warbler continued to winter at Portola Valley (MM et al), and the Palm Warbler at the Carmel Sewage Plant was found until Feb. 15 (NB, CH, RH); the Rusty Blackbird also there was last seen Feb.16 (GZ), however, it may have molted into breeding plumage making it more difficult to identify. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that wintered in Santa Rosa was seen through Mar. 2 (GB, GZ, DD). A Lark Bunting was identified in a flock of Vesper Sparrows along West Butte Rd., Sutter Co. Feb. 8 (SLa). The two Berkeley Harris' Sparrows were present at feeders all month (CG, DP). At least eight Swamp Sparrows from the fall invasion were still present at Olema marsh Feb. 27 (RS).

Observers: Frank Beyer, Laurence C. Binford, Gordon Bolander, Ned Boyajian, Ted Chandik, Diek Dean (DDe), Rich DeCoster, Donna Dittmann (DD), Clark Gleason, Craig Hohenberger, Ralph Hudgins, Walt Koenig, Steve Laymon (SLa), Paul Lehman, John Luther, Susanne Luther (SL), Brian McCaffery, E. J. McClintock, Martha Merk, Joe Morlan, Dee Pruyn, Bill Reese, Rieh Stallcup, Terry Taylor, Mike Wihler, Gary Zamzow, many observers (mob).

-DON ROBERSON, Observations Editor

1728 Berkeley Way #5, Berkeley CA 94703 (841-1763)

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Mr. Robert Stewart, land bird biologist of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will speak at the April general membership meeting. His subject will be "Breeding Strategies of Sierra Birds". Ian Tait's masterful photographs will be included in the slide show.

The date: Thursday, April 10, 1975, 7:30 p.m.

The place: The First Unitarian Church, Geary and Franklin Streets, San Francisco.

-DOLORES WHITE, Program Chairperson



YOU ARE INVITED

Sunday, May 18

Family Day at Audubon Canyon Ranch for all

Golden Gate Audubon members, their families and friends.

Bring your lunch and liquids. We'll provide coffee for the grown-ups, lemonade and homemade cookies for the kids.

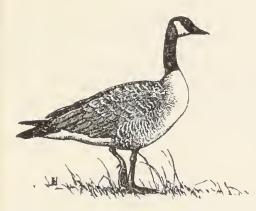
Guided nature walks and other activities begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Ranch picnic area.

Come meet old and new friends, and get acquainted with our famous sanctuary on the shore of Bolinas Lagoon.

Take the Shoreline Highway (Highway 1) or the Panoramic Highway over Mt. Tam to Stinson Beach. Proceed on Highway 1 to the Ranch, near the north end of the lagoon, or if you prefer a non-mountainous drive, follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd. off Highway 101, through Fairfax to Olema: turn left on Highway 1 and proceed south to the Ranch.



Covel's Conservation Corner



Saving the shores of San Francisco Bay for wildlife and public access is an issue that appears to be attracting increasing support. About one hundred GGAS members and friends turned out on a cool, windy March Saturday to follow Tom Williams and hear his explanations of the wildlife and recreational potentials of the U.S. Navy properties at Pt. Molate. Pt. Molate is located immediately north of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

Tom had arranged with the C.O. for our caravan to explore the arroyos and ridges as well. It looked like the "Toyon Capital of the East Bay" with an abundance of these shrubs growing vigorously despite an uncontrolled deer herd. I was also intrigued by Project MER (Marine Ecology Research) operated with Navy permission by Contra Costa and Alameda County high school students at the Pt. Molate Marine Laboratory. I am looking forward to visiting the project on a future trip.

What about the south end of our East Bay shoreline? We have learned from the Ohlone Audubon *Kite Call* that the City of Hayward, East Bay Regional Park district and other agencies are planning for wildlife, marsh, and tideflat preservation along some eight miles of Hayward shoreline. The sum of \$750,000 from the Park Bond Fund (Z'Berg/Collier Bill) has been requested, but the State Lands Division must still determine some of the land titles.

We now focus our attention inland on the "big game mammal," the mountain lion, which the Department of Fish and Game now estimates at a population of 2400. This is a long way from the 600 to 1000 individuals claimed by the proponents of the current moratorium on lion killing. Fish and Game biologist Richard Weaver described his lion studies for the February meeting of the Wildlife Society's Bay Area chapter. Some of us were surprised to learn that of the approximately 20 annual complaints of livestock predations by lions, only 40 to 50 kills could be proven. As the expense of investigation by Mr. Weaver's crew is considerable (lions must sometimes be tranquilized and transported), I asked if a state-sponsored ranchers' indeminty system might take care of such losses. We understand this has been tried successfully for coyote predation in another western state.

In case you didn't see the GGAS *Hotline* of February 19, we would like to bring you up to date on the marine mammal issues. Yes, the Japanese and Russians did agree last fall to the quotas on several species set by the International Whaling Commission, but they did not agree to the unanimous moratorium on killing several other species. Therefore the boycotts will be continued.

I am also deeply concerned over the continued destruction of thousands of dolphins by American tuna boats. The netting operations used *only* by our boats are responsible for the dolphin deaths. Chunk Light Meat and Light Meat Tuna are harvested by this method; Albacore, White Meat Tuna and Bonita are not. We urge the whale and sea otter protection people to include the dolphin in their efforts, even if it means boycotting Amercan products.

-PAUL COVEL, Conservation Chairman

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE BAY

Point Molate Fuel Depot, Richmond, was invaded by about 100 bird-watchers on March I. Shore, water, woodland, and grassland birds were seen against a panorama of the Bay and San Francisco. The historic Winehaven buildings were visited, and hot coffee warmed everyone in the historic trains of the Castro Point Railway (Pacific Locomotive Association).

Point Molate is one of the choices of the Whittell Acquisition Committee for future acquisition. Other field trips to the Point are planned for late May and again in November.

The northern portion of the old Hoffman marsh (west of the Richmond Inner Harbor) may be endangered by the proposed Richmond Harbor and Marina Plan. GGAS and Save the Bay Assoc. protested the proposed alignment of a major access road directly through some of the best developed cord grass marshes in the Central Bay (on the east side).

Albany has changed some of its land fill plans. The land fill may be close down and an "environmentally sensitive" plan developed for the existing filled area. A part of the plan may include retention of the Hoffman mudflats (Golden Gate Fields) in its present state.

Further down the Bay shore, Emeryville has submitted an application for the final touches on its "peninsula" of fill. Part of the plan involves a nature area between the marina and Watergate West. I wonder what will be next on their plans. Their environmental report does mention observations of Least Terns in the parking area of the restaurant at the end of the "peninsula". Can anyone confirm that?

While on the subject of naval lands, I had the chance to see one of the lovelier pieces of navy property in the Bay Area: Mare Island. Auduboners in Napa-Solano should think about the U.S. Navy, Concord Naval Weapons Station-Mare Island Annex for possible acquisition with Whittell Funds. Included is a good grassland, oak-toyon woodland, coastal sage, and a large salt marsh offering a great variety of wildlife. In this small area there is more wildlife than in the rest of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Please send me any bird observations or general remarks on the Emery-ville Crescent (Bay Bridge Toll Plaza) marshes and mudflats, those of Golden Gate Fields or Hoffman Blvd., and the Wildcat and San Pablo Creek marshes (near the Richmond landfill).

-TOM WILLIAMS, Environmental Chairman

POINT MOLATE FIELD TRIP

The second Point Molate field trip will be Saturday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. Because of the large turnout in February, this trip will be limited to the first fifty persons contacting Tom Williams after May 5, (548-0939). Meeting place and other details will be given at that time. Lots of birds, old buildings, old trains, and magnificent views of the Bay will be provided.

From Your President's Stockpile



MARJORIE MILNER ATKIN-SON: A loyal deceased member of GGAS, Marjorie Milner Atkinson, has left to the Society a bequest in excess of \$12,000. In past files can be found copies of the gracious correspondence carried on by Miss Atkinson during her term as Corresponding Secretary of GGAS. She also served as Registrar for Audubon nature classes conducted by Phyllis Lindley. Her professional activities included teaching English in Britain and serving as a librarian at the Pacific School of Religion. That conservation was of prime

concern to her was evidenced in her will which named as beneficiaries a number of conservation organizations. Although she was ill and in considerable pain during her final years, she remained a cheerful and loyal supporter of our activities. The Board expresses deep gratitude for the faith in GGAS evidenced by her bequest.

At its March 3 meeting the Board unanimously approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee whereby the bequest of \$12,056.08 was to be combined with \$5200 in a savings account to constitute an endowment to be invested for its first year in a certificate of savings account. The principle is not to be used, but the income, estimated at present rates of interest to be approximately \$1200 a year, will be combined with other income of GGAS to support its varied activities. In her memory will be established the Marjorie Milner Atkinson scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West. Thanks are due to our treasurer and to the finance committee for the very considerable amount of work which went into determining how to use this money in the best long-term interests of the Society.

A COLLECTION OF KUDOS: Volume III, the Oakland Airport Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, is distinguished by accurate and extensive input of ecological considerations for which credit is due a number of agencies and conservation organizations. We would like particularly to mention the Citizens' Advisory Group on San Leandro Bay and its co-chairmen Burns Cadwalader and Lawrence Joiner. GGAS member and long-time "watchdog" over San Leandro Bay

Pond, Elsie Roemer, served as one of the prime consultants to this Citizen's Advisory group. The final report contained position statements from Elsie Roemer and from our conservation chairman, Paul Covel.

Despite last minute cancellations of our bookings at a Morro Bay motel, Pat Triggs managed to get the busload of birders comfortably settled in at a motel at Paso Robles and from that point on, the mid-February week-end field trip went swimmingly. This was due to splendid weather, to Pat's "unflappability" and careful attention to detail and to the generous hospitality extended by members of the Morro Bay Audubon Society, most notably by Jim Montgomery and Mrs. Nora Strong at Morro Bay and by Mrs. Mary Anderson at Cambria Pines.

More than 75 people turned out on March 1, despite heavily overcast skies to take advantage of an opportunity to survey Point Molate under the very skillful leadership of our environmental chairman, Tom Williams. Members of the Castro Point Railway Association opened one of their refurbished dining cars and from the attached kitchen Lucretia Edwards of the West Contra Costa Shoreline committee and Charles G. Heimerdinger of the Castro Point Railway Association served steaming coffee, tea, and cookies to the participants. GGAS and Save the San Francisco Bay Association have jointly resolved to press for this area being made available for either State or Federal park, educational and recreational use.

CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE: Bob McMorris of the San Francisco zoo would welcome any observations of resident wild birds or migratory birds observed within the confines of the zoo in order to assure as complete a listing as possible of birds to be found there. He would like to distribute these to interested visitors to the zoo and would welcome more widespread use of the zoo for field trips.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Game is most anxious to contact any friends or relatives of a deceased GGAS member, Carl R. Smith, who in the *Gull* observed that whooping cranes had been known to have bred on a family ranch in South Dakota. Although the ranch is no longer in existence, any help in pinpointing its original location would help lend authenticity to this record.

ALBANY ADULT SCHOOL: We regret that Bill Brophy, president of the California Native Plant Society and associate curator of the Oakland Museum, who was scheduled to give a course this spring on "Plant Communities" has been forced by the pressure of other commitments to postpone this course until the summer session, June 23-August 2.

-G. R. MACHLIS, President

HAPPENINGS

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY is offering a wide variety of field trips for 1975. They range from weekend trips in the Pt. Reyes area

to longer ones in the Sierra, on the west coast of Mexico, and in southeast Arizona. All are reasonably priced. Write Meryl Stewart, P.O. 442, Bolinas, CA 94924 for a brochure.

A PELAGIC TRIP to circle the Farallones Islands on Sunday, April 16 is scheduled by Nature Expeditions International. THE WEST COAST OF MEXICO trip, April 26-May 4, has a few openings. The trip will be led by Ted Chandik. For further information: Nature Expeditions International, P.O. 1173, Los Altos, CA 94022.

AN ECOLOGY BAY CRUISE is scheduled by the Explorers section of the Sicrra Club for Saturday, May 10. The charter boat will include Carquinez Straits, San Pablo and Suisun Bays in its itinerary. F. R. Barnes, 4282 Maple Ave., Oakland, CA 94602 is in charge of reservations.

THE AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY will hold six or ten day sessions on May 2-11. For a brochure and registration form write: Ms. Janine D. Hernbrode, director, Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 3851 West Redwing, Tuscon, Arizona 85704. Accommodations will be at the luxurious Tanque Verde Guest Ranch at the foot of the Rincon Mountains.

THE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION CENTER in the Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley CA 94708 (525-2233) will put you on their mailing list by request. Their weekend programs are conducted by the excellent naturalist staff and appeal to all age groups.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch	
In memory of:	Gift of:
Helen Dye Wheeler	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Grace
Police Sergeant Code Beverly	Liesje Beverly
Carlyle W. Sather	Bertha S. Underhill
Mrs. F. Marshall Jenks	Bertha S. Underhill
For GGAS	
In memory of:	Gift of:
Micheal Bloomfield	Marci Shimoff
In honor of:	Gift of:
Mrs. Leopold Levy	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Mendle
General	

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memeory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a co-sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen, Corresponding Secretary, 4 Del Valle, Orinda, CA 94563. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations, and bequests will be acknowledged in the GULL as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.

IN MEMORY

HERBERT LEONARD COGGINS

The passing of Herbert Leonard Coggins of San Francisco in late December 1974, at the age of 93, closed a most remarkable career. Mr. Coggins, generally acknowledged to be the oldest surviving member of the National Audubon Society until his death, was often addressed among us and at NAS conventions as "Mister Audubon." He had organized a Pennsylvania Audubon Society in the 1890's, and subsequently joined the infant National Audubon Society at its birth in 1904.

Although born in California, he moved east with his parents and had started his distinguished literary career by the age of 22, when he became editor of a children's magazine in Philadelphia. After his return to California, Coggins became a building contractor, retail merchant, and a teacher of economic ornithology at the University of California. Besides publishing children's books of his own he found time to edit a deluxe edition of the poetry of his friend, Joaquin Miller.

Both Herbert Coggins and his late wife, Elsie, were regular attendents at GGAS meetings and NAS conventions until shortly before Mrs. Coggin's death in 1973. It was my privilege to share several unforgettable table conversations with Herbert Coggins, a superb raconteur, yet a man of youthful outlook. He had been accorded many honors by ornithologists and educators; some GGAS members will recall that fascinating album of great names and faces he once shared with us during an Asilomar NAS Conference.

-PAUL COVEL

Some GGAS members have expressed a reluctance to cut out the ballot from their March *Gull*. You may substitute a simple statement accepting or rejecting the slate. Include your signature and indicate whether your vote represents one vote or two votes (family membership).

BIRD CHECKLIST FILE

Vi Homem writes, "Our GGAS library will maintain a current file of bird checklists for reference use by our members."

"On my first visit to a refuge or park I ask for a checklist for our library. I hope other birders will do the same when they go on vacation trips. Checklists from any area in the world would be useful to other members planning trips."



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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Mrs. Wm. B. Fraser (661-4787)
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Above are all members of the Board of Directors.

Assist. Ed. THE GULL, Nick Story (527-0210)
Bird Observations, Don Roberson (841-1763)
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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. It will be forwarded.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward the GULL. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes AUDUBON Magazine and the GULL; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving the GULL. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to the GULL separately \$3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership \$7 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., was established January 25, 1917 and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.